

was no Government of Cochin. Today, I am glad to find that there is a Government of Cochin and I only say we have got certain powers vested in the non-official members of the Legislative Council and I can assure that if there is no Government of Cochin, we will constitute a Government of Cochin and we will force you to declare and give us answers to the questions that we raise. I thank the Hon'ble Joint Secretary for the very lucid explanation of the whole position. In view of the answer that they will be considering the question later on, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

The demand of Rs. 46,840 under 4. Village Courts put and carried.

20—Education—Rs. 22,20,815

***Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, It has been my privilege Sir, for the last 11 years to come forward to this House not only with the largest demand but also an annual increase in the demand under the head of Education, and I wish to record with the greatest satisfaction that not a single occasion have I had any grounds for complaint against the sympathetic handling of my estimates by the Hon'ble Members of this House. Confident again, Sir, of a continuance of the old amenity, I am coming forward again this year with an unusually inflated budget. The figures have gone up by over 2 lakhs over last year. Fortified by the memories of all past graces, I have great pleasure in placing my estimates for the vote of this House. The amount this year comes to Rs. 22,20,815 (votable). Sir, it is quite unnecessary on my part to make any speech on this occasion, because the educational estimates, at any rate, as so plain that people who run institutions may read. But still, there are one or two small features hidden in the welter of figures which probably may require a certain amount of elucidation. I also envisage the possibility of giving further elucidation of the figures in my short replies to the large number of cut motions which have been tabled by the Hon'ble Members of this House.

In my earlier years, as a member of this House, probably due to want of experience, experience both from the workings of primary institutions and the workings of the human mind, I thought that my trying to explain in advance, my solutions for these cut motions, I thought, I might probably succeed in getting Hon'ble members not to move them. To my great surprise and initially to my great consternation, I completely failed. But subsequent experience has convinced me that these cut motions are not so much indictments of any acts of commission or omission on the part of the Government in respect of education, but rather indication of the eternal watchfulness and verity of this House. So that I have, instead of beginning to dread these cut motions, begun a sort of fellow-feeling for them, because they help to bring out in the course of the discussion what I am very likely to forget in trying to place this budget before this House. I am aware, Sir, that from the variety and wealth of these cut motions, the general nature of the budget will be fully revealed. At the same time, there are one or two points, as I said, at the outset, which might very profitably be explained at some length, points which may not be very clear on the face of these estimates. A national budget even of a small State like this is not merely a kind of income and expenditure but is also an explicit statement of policy. It is not merely an economic document, but a social document, or at any rate, it ought to be in a well administered State. I consider, therefore, that my humble estimate represents not merely a kind of education income and expenditure but a very humble statement of an inner policy which runs from all these estimates.

During the general discussion on the budget, one or two Hon'ble members referred to the inordinate sums of money that are being spent on Establishment.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): It is not correct. It is not establishment but administration charges.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am not referring to Hon'ble members, and I think Sir, there is considerable justification in regard to certain departments if they spend money on establishment and nothing else it is a very serious matter. But in a department like education the cost of establishment is bound to cover about 75 per cent of the cost of the entire machinery of public instruction. The reason is obvious. If the most central factor of education is the child, the most important and central factor in education is the teacher; and if you know the very large number of teachers who have got to be employed to carry on the work in this Department, you will have the inherent justification for the enormous expenditure that is involved in maintaining such a very large army of service-men. About 70 to 75 per cent of the expenditure on education, not merely in Cochin but elsewhere, has, therefore, to be spent

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member

on the maintenance of service. There is also, Sir, the incidental advantage. That is, this enormous expenditure does not go to one huge pocket. It goes to 5,000 separate homes. I am saying that it is an indirect advantage.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Please give them living wages.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): The cost of living is so largely mounting up that it is impossible to keep pace with the living wages especially in time of such rapid rise in prices. But my interest, Sir, is not so much in the economics of this subject as in the ethics of it, as you see from the cut motions themselves, by far the largest number, which relate not to questions of economy, but as to questions of administration and of ethics. Now, to take according to me the less important point, the economics of this budget, I tried to point out that by far the largest amount is spent on the central factor, the pedagogue. But if you analyse the heads of the budget you will find, Sir, that a little under 4.5 per cent of the entire expenditure is all, that is spent on the real administration of the Department, a sum of Rs. 95,000. I am taking not merely the votable but even the non-votable items including my own salary. The entire cost of administration comes to 4.5 per cent of the entire expenditure. But I think it would be a good arrangement if the ethics are given to me and the economics go to the Finance Member, so that he gets all these cut motions. To resume my argument, my first point is, as I said, that we spend very little on actual administration. Another point which is noteworthy is that roughly about 55 per cent of the entire expenditure is on primary education. I know that the figures shall be contested because if you look at the budget there is a slight difference. You find that the amount of money set apart for the primary, is Rs. 11,79,262. But to that I would add the cost of training teachers of Rs. 34,132 making a total of over Rs. 12,25,000 because these teachers are trained entirely for the service of primary education. If this is a fact, whether we are spending enough for it or not, whether we are giving our teachers a living wage or not, whether we have succeeded in giving private agencies the impetus and incentive or not, we have set apart more than 55 per cent of our annual expenditure for primary education a fact of which not merely myself but all Hon'ble members of this House may be justly proud.

I will now rush through the other items, viz. collegiate education. We have budgetted an amount of Rs. 1,58,000 under Collegiate Education, almost a stationary figure for years. And the reason if the House would remember is the direction from the Hon'ble Members of this House themselves.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (Chittur-Rural): For the purchase of materials only Rs. 10,000 is provided when last year it was Rs. 12,000, and prices have now gone high.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): Is it the Hon'ble Member's suggestion that we should buy more science materials? Even if it is desirable, it is not available.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (Chittur-Rural): So, science education will suffer.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): There is the difference between capital expenditure and recurring expenditure. We have all the materials to equip our college sufficiently well that we have all the materials even for a wintry day. We have no dearth of chemicals, and the provision of Rs. 10,000 is ample for the year.

Now, Sir, by receiving interruptions from the Hon'ble Members I lose not merely the thread of the argument but almost my heart. To resume my argument, the expenditure on collegiate education is about Rs. 1,58,000. I said it is an almost stationary figure for the last so many years. I find a large number of cut motions tabled this year making demands that the cost of collegiate education may be increased. All that I wish to say, Sir, is that the Government curtailed the expenditure on collegiate education not on their own initiative so much as the result of an express instruction from this House. It was said on more occasions than one by Hon'ble Members of this House, and I think quite justly and fairly and properly, that expenditure on collegiate education should be curtailed, not because Hon'ble Members have got any antipathy towards collegiate education but because the bulk of the expenditure of public revenues should be on items of service which are within the reach of the masses. I am not criticising these cut motions in anticipation at all. I only say that we have a provision of Rs. 1,58,000 under this head, because of the direction which this House had given Government on previous occasions.

The expenditure under Secondary Education shows a slight increase over last year for more than one reason. In the first place, the number of schools, though stationary still, as far as Government are concerned, the number of classes has increased, and therefore, the staff has got

to be increased. Now there is a very mysterious item to which Hon'ble members have very naturally taken exception to, Miscellaneous, under which there is a provision of Rs. 16,354. Personally, Sir, I think the term 'miscellaneous' is a very unhappy one, although it is very expressive of the large variety of items it includes. Items 1 to 5 deal with establishments more or less. It is only under item 6 under Miscellaneous where you find some provision for a slight reform here, or a slight reform there a new provision for a new educational experiment for a new reform or for a new educational research. Although the provision is small, I think it is very necessary that all the items under this head should be religiously retained. Now, so far as the economics of this budget are concerned, it could have been much better explained by my Hon'ble friend, the member for Finance. I wish to make a very few remarks because there is such a large number of cut motions on one or two other items connected with the budget, the provision for which being so small, are not so easily divisible. I refer particularly to two items, one which relates to the pupils, and the other to the teachers. Sir, my friend from Cranganur is making me so happy by his happiness that I pause to preface my further remarks by recounting my story which is very apt by the way. There is an old story told of how when King Charles II came to the throne of his ancestor after restoration, knowing the conditions of his two universities, sent an army to Oxford and a huge library of books to Cambridge; and the reason was obvious, knowing that the first body lacked loyalty and the second lacked learning. Our recent troubles of last year have made us realise that both boys and teachers want something more to do than what they have at present. Those who had the good fortune, as I have had, of dealing with voice of children from Montessorie only right up to 25, know the child nature. Just as nature abhors a vacuum, human nature abhors even more. A child cannot always keep quiet. It must always have to do something and if it has not the proper thing to do, it would do the improper thing. It should be the effort of all wise educationists to provide suitable occupation for children in the different stages of life. Sir, I am on a very serious point.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): The Hon'ble Member can take it that I am very serious.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I said I am getting almost the infection of happiness from him. Unfortunately as the old adage about very undesirable persons getting idle hands to do, there we have the pointed eyes of British educationists years ago and they realise that it would be very wrong to allow boys to be occupied fully the whole time from one end of the day to the other; and if you look at the time-table of an English public school, or a grammar school or even an elementary school, the afternoon is entirely devoted to physical exercises and recreation. After all, a man is embodied well, and it is not usual to develop his soul leaving his body to the winds. It has to be admitted, Sir, that in spite of the whole of the curriculum, the physical side of our children has been grossly neglected, not so much for value as for want of funds we had to choose between providing school buildings and play grounds. We have not got enough for both. Hon'ble members, at any rate, who comes round about Trichur know how an old drill shed is turned into a class-room, even the little amenity that the school possessed has been stopped in the so-called progress or growth of education. The importance of physical education is not merely in that it gives a very necessary exercise to the limbs or that it promotes the healthy co-operation of juvenile activity through organised games and sports, but that it helps to develop character. I do not, of course, and none of us I am sure, look upon physical education with the same degree of perfection as an English-man put it. But there is a good deal of truth in the insistent upon making suitable provision for physical culture and playing facilities in every school, particularly, secondary school. There is a provision, though modest, for the supply of playgrounds and for the acquisition of playgrounds for Government schools and for making suitable grants for private agencies where they lack space for the acquisition of playgrounds. Steps are being taken by the Hon'ble Member for works to provide a suitable gymnasium, where they are required and where they are absolutely necessary. So that there is every reason to expect that the year ahead as far as education is concerned, is going to be brighter than it was in the past. So much for the provision we have made for one factor in education.

I must now refer to the equally important factor, viz., the teachers. Recent experience particularly in the last year has convinced Government that whatever be the cost, there is a great deal of stagnation among teachers. Causes may be many and varied. One often finds that there is very little difference between a teacher and a clerk. One goes to the school and the other goes to the office. When they leave the places of work, their talk is almost identical, their aspiration is identical and quite right. But so far as their actual profession is concerned there

is great loss of interests. I tried to apply my mind to this factor and found that it is not so insignificant as one might have thought. It is very wide, and it is the result of not so much on physical starvation as their intellectual and emotional starvation. We have to provide teachers with suitable opportunities for keeping up their professional interests and for some of the many amenities of the social life which they lack. With this end in view, we propose to start a bureau of education, a bureau which I hope will develop into an institution of education. The idea is to have a provision for a social club as well as centre of intellectual effort. It is proposed to have a library attached to it and a reading room of professional books, as the reading room is intended only for those interested in the education. The bureau would not merely carry on this work of just having a library and a reading room but also make provision for the institution to provide special study of work on different branches of educational work and research. I must give you one possible mode of research. A very large number of questions are asked involving the collection of laborious statistics. We have no statistics. Now the bureau will be able to give not merely the Government but the Hon'ble Member who wants statistics on education, up-to-date statistics being periodically revised on any question relating to education, and the same committee will study from time to time questions of educational progress or regress, measures to be taken for the progress of literacy and adult education and so on. It is proposed, conditions remaining not so abnormal as they are, to issue bulletins under the auspices of this bureau as they are published for instance by the United States Bureau of Education.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): May I know whether the membership of the bureau will be compulsory or optional?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): Those who do not wish to take advantage of the light, that is going to be shed on them they will simply turn their eyes to the walls.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): I don't think anybody become members.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I have had to make researches in this question and I find that the result is very satisfactory. I do admit there is a kind of spiritual enemy but they are not quite pernicious yet. I still have hopes of revival and this bureau is not merely going to be a kind of educational factory: it is also going to provide some of the social amenities. We have an idea of running a small canteen for the poor teachers many of whom find it very difficult to get refreshment when they go home before they come to the library because they cannot afford. Therefore that part of the infection does not catch. This I believe, Sir, will be to their great advantage. The provision is small. It is a beginning. Not only have I received a good response from teachers but I have received of very great response from philanthropic people who have promised to lend their aid to this institution. So that it is going to happen under a very happy augury.

There are a few cut motions—I do not wish to go in detail—but there are a few general questions which will arise out of that. One is with regard to the increased expenditure on elementary education. Many of these cut motions relate to the very niggardly provision according to the Hon'ble movers, that has been made for the aiding of new classes in schools. Some relate to additional expenditure.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): Could they not more properly come when the cuts are moved?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I also tried to reply to some criticisms of an increased provision to be made on collegiate education. Others relate, though to a curtailment or to the extension of educational concessions given to different sects or different communities. Another one is typical of a class which says that increment should be given to one or more of public servants. Another one says that Government should bear the entire costs of dearness allowance. We have a variety of such cut motions on which Government would express their opinion, as they are moved. But I wish this House to realise that they would just compare the figures under grants-in-aid for the last 6 years. I doubt very much whether they will have any reason to say that Government have been niggardly. It is true that while demands are unlimited, our sources are more inelastic. I am aware that I shall be reminded by the colossal increment this year of the huge surplus. I am not one of those who believe in sitting down only when one gets exhausted. But even otherwise I can speak all these things in the course of cut motions. But I would just like to make one or two observations before I resume my seat. Sir, there is absolutely no difference of opinion between this House and Government in respect of their policy towards elementary education. The only question is whether Government have got fairly and squarely in making the provision under grants-in-aid of elementary education. It is said that hereafter Government may say that they are not going to give any grants to classes to be

opened hereafter but will liquidate our debts. I have got such a suggestion, not in the course of the debate here but from an Hon'ble friend who is a school manager and who is also a Head-master of the school. I said we have tried many times. It is like the periodical wiping of debts. So we liquidate our debts and so tell them that hereafter we shall not give aid as a matter of course to any one of you. So please be on your guard. What has been my experience? I have done this 3 or 4 times. My experience has been this. Next year I get an application for the opening of a school with a rider that "no grant is required". Of course, I take the request on the face value at the time. Two or three years afterwards, comes a request for Government to re-consider this case and will Government be so gracious as to allow this. Well, all Governments have made up of human beings and even collectively they are human beings. They say "alright". It is true that the Code says that grant is a matter of grace. That is no reason why we should not be graceful. There is a matter of governmental grace till a couple of years ago. It is going to be an important divine grace before very long, short of a miracle to find funds required for the annual increase in the demand under grants-in-aid and also under other items of expenditure. I want this House to consider this matter very seriously and give Government a final direction. If they think that no caution need be imposed upon the opening of schools and that as a matter of course without hindrance, aid should be granted to every school as they arise or a year after they arise. Give us that direction. The only thing is Government will be obliged to this House also to point out the source from which this money could be found, because our wind-fall is purely a wind-fall, unless of course I get a direction from this Hon'ble House that we should appropriate for the secondary education the entire money under Excise. There is an English precedent that where the substantial portion of the money spent on education comes from a tax called Whisky Money. It is all open to this House. But it is no use taking Government to task for not doing the impossible. If, on the other hand, you find that, however desirable it might be that a new school should be opened every year, still our resources are such that we have to exercise this magnanimity with caution and we shall give aid only to schools which are, according to certain criteria, deserving it, not to every school. You can settle the criteria for yourself. I am not discussing the things behind the cut motion. I am saying there are these issues raised in the cut motions. In the heat of controversy I do not want that these should be forgotten. Government want guidance in these matters. You can give us the direction and the way in which the resources can be had.

There are some minor administrative actions which have come into notice and which the House wishes to discuss. I shall not take up the time of this House for such matters of detail which are bound to come up again for discussion when the several cut motions are moved.

Sir, I request that with its usual generosity the entire sum of Rs. 22,20,815 may be passed.

Deputy President: Mrs. Joshua has requested the Chair that she may be permitted to move her cut motion No. 23 first, if the House has no objection.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): I do not think the House can do it. Under the Standing Order these things have to be taken up in the order of priority. When there is a specific provision of law, only the Chair has got the right to contravene it.

Deputy President: The Hon'ble Member for Cranganur is not for granting that. Therefore, the request cannot be granted.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): The Hon'ble Member cannot be allowed to move that cut motion. To elicit information is the subject-matter of the motion. No rule is necessary. Under rule 56 (d) a motion shall be clearly and definitely expressed and shall raise a definite issue. Not only in form but in object it must be for discussing a particular subject.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): I am not very serious. I can get the information.

Deputy President: What have you to say against the point of order raised?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): I don't move my cut motion.

CUT MOTION No. 59

Appointment of Travancoreans in aided Schools

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu): I beg to move that the allotment of Rs. 8,036 for Direction and Inspection might be reduced by Re. 1. The object of this cut motion is to criticise the Education Department in approving the appointments of subjects of Travancore State in aided schools when qualified hands are available among bona fide Cochinites.

I beg to move Sir, this cut motion placing my emphasis upon the latter aspect of the motion namely that when *bona fide* subjects of the State are available in the State it is improper and inadvisable and against policy to go in for hands from Travancore or elsewhere as the case may be and this cut motion is tabled to bring to the notice of the Government the undesirability of following that policy and to rectify that policy wherever it has been already followed.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): Without interruption, is it the Honourable Member's suggestion that people who have been in service should be sent out?

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Where it is only a temporary affair, Government may be kind enough not to extend the concession further. The suggestion is not to end the whole lot of people who have been confirmed already and to go back upon the terms and policy of the Government. I am much obliged to the Hon'ble Member for Education that his budget demand also contains a statement of policy and as a statement of policy in and through so many figures of rupees I would also submit to the Honourable House that this statement of policy may also be subjected to the controlling remark, that policy must be consistent with the well being and good prospects of the subjects of the State. It is not at all a complaint within my knowledge within the four corners of the State that there is a scarcity to meet the immense demand of the Education Department in the State to find out the necessary hands to man these institutions. On the other hand, the complaint to the best of my information, is that applications for appointment in this Department are more numerous than the Department can afford to employ reply or even much less to satisfy. In this light, I would respectfully request the Government that they should as a matter of policy avoid at least for the future giving room for such complaints as the importation of officers or hands from outside when there is absolutely no scarcity for such qualified hands in the State and much more should this rule be accepted on principle that when the imported hand is less qualified according to the educational requirements in the State, it must be avoided. I beg leave to the notice of the House a very strong instance which has made me bold to make this cut motion. I am one of those young students who have been educated at Trichur in the C.M.S. High School. This is an institution of very very old standing. From my enquiries I have been able to learn that this institution came into existence in the year 1885. Its first Headmaster was a *bona fide* Cochinite. The second Headmaster was Mr. P. A. Stephen who is also a B.A., L.T.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): He is not an L.T.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): Was he not exempted?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): There was not the same insistence then.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Then came Mr. T. D. George. He wanted to be the Headmaster of the school and I was informed that there was a competition between this man and a candidate from Kottayam which ended in the success of Mr. T. D. George. Then comes the fourth Headmaster of the institution, Mr. C. K. John. That I am told is a victory of the Kottayam candidate over the Cochinite and I do not know whether emboldened by this access and trespass the first candidate again comes from Kottayam and the Educational Member was good enough to answer yesterday and from those answers we are emboldened to state that there are good candidates duly qualified and perhaps more qualified and unless we take religious education to be more essential for a High School, there are candidates in that institution with experience of 20 years or less. Whatever that may be, it is certainly not a precedent which ought to be accepted by this institution and the fact that a Kottayam precedent is there, I may submit to the Government, is a very bad precedent in the educational institution. Rightly or wrongly the appointment of this person has been accepted by the Government for one year. It is my respectful request that in view of the unhealthy wheel behind the practice it may be discontinued at the earliest opportunity. As I submitted Sir, in the very beginning the educational budget has a policy as the Hon'ble Education Member puts it. I would request that in addition to the several policies mentioned by the Hon'ble Member this may also be accepted by the Government as a policy.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): Mr. President, The Hon'ble mover of the cut motion was submitting to this House that he lays greater emphasis upon the latter part of the cut viz. the appointment of foreigners when qualified hands are available in Cochin. Listening to the discussion of the cut, I am led to presume that the complaint is the subject matter of question No. 61 answered yesterday. The ridiculousness of the position taken up by the Government in the appointment of the Rev. Father in question having had to be defended by recourse being had to the practice at times had seven thousand miles away. The few cases of

eminent theologians having been Headmasters of some of famous English schools were called to the aid of the Government forgetting at the same time the difference between the Theologians mentioned by the Hon'ble the Diwan President and the theologian here in question. That particular appointment of the Rev. Father as Headmaster seems to be the subject matter of the motion in hand. But speaking on the motion, as it stands, Sir, I do not wish the Government to lay down a hard and fast rule like what is contained in the earlier part of the motion, Cochin for Cochinites and Cochin for Cochinites always. I am of opinion, Sir, that that slogan is to bow to certain exceptions, regard being had to various considerations. The question of questions now is that Rev. Father is one who will come under the exception which I just now mentioned. To my humble thinking he has no credentials for that exception. I do know that he has no real credentials. I have analysed and dissected that individual's merits as stated by Government. I made subsequent enquiries as to his theological training where he had it, what he has and all that. When the appointment was attempted to be defended by no less a person than the President, I wanted to reply, but with due respect to the President, I did not answer them. I made enquiries and the result of the inquiry is what I have stated above. Sir, when that injustice, that unwanted Headmaster was put over the heads of persons—Cochinites—one with 21 years service and trained, another with 20 years of service and trained, a third with 14 years service and trained, and again a fourth with 11 years of service and trained, what is the situation created, Sir. A man without any credentials for that office, for particular reasons being put over the heads of these persons. Cochinites, true, loyal Cochinites who have served in the particular aided institution, mark you, Sir, in the same aided institution—if their work is not satisfactory, they would not have been able to be there for so long a period—what is the amount of heart burning in these 5 or 6 teachers. I speak from the standpoint of a parent. Suppose my son or daughter or anybody related to me is to attend that school to be taught by any one of these discontented teachers. What is the fate of my son? What is the fate of my daughter. What is the fate for the matter of that of any student who sits before them. Their faces will affect the students. Any student of Psychology must understand that. What is the result? The product becomes useless. The question therefore is the Department to encourage this? Whatever may be the circumstances and exigencies of this particular appointment. The Government shall under no circumstances encourage such things. It is in that spirit Sir, with a reservation that I am not one saying Cochin for Cochinites always that I support the motion. But whenever Cochinites are available and the appointment of a foreigner so to say creates heart burn in the minds of the Cochinites, let it not be the policy of the Government of Cochin to burn the hearts of Cochinites and satisfy the feelings and respect the feelings of a Travancorean especially when he has no credentials to deserve the favour.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): I support the motion. In supporting the motion, I even go to the extent of stating that no private management should be allowed to appoint any teacher as Headmaster whatever be his religion, caste colour or creed overlooking the claims of any subordinate teacher. When a teacher who is to get actual promotion is unfit to hold it as teacher, send him away from the school but at the same time don't allow anybody to be promoted from the lower ranks of the same school. It is a greater injustice that somebody outside the Department is pushed into whatever be the ideals and whatever be the principles for which the school or college is run injustice cannot be tolerated. I have heard of an instance of the promotion of a particular teacher over the head of three others in the Vivekodayam High School. The action of the management of the C. M. S. High School in the appointment of the Headmaster is still more injustice. It seems he had not even teaching experience for 16 or 18 years. A Travancorean has been brought over here not for teaching but for doing the work of a Parish Priest. There have been trained teachers in the same school with 20 or 21 year's standing. If the reason is attributed to the teaching of the Bible I may say that it is very easy and it can be taught by anybody.

A voice.—Why not make him an assistant?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): Whatever that be, the policy which this Government or the previous Government has been following in overlooking the claims because a particular management likes a certain person as Headmaster cannot be tolerated on any account. A teacher who is unfit to teach need not be in the school. He must be sent away. Why should there be heart burning. As Mr. Ezhuthassan has rightly pointed out as a parent which experience I have not, I gladly endorse what he has said I will not allow my children to be taught by such discontented teachers.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): Is this a Legislative Council. No business is going on.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): I request the Government to see that hard and fast rules are laid down on this. If any injustice is done to any body that may be rectified.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): Sir, I wish to make an analysis of this cut motion not as between the first and the second portion but as between two points that are involved. There is the question of the appointment of Travancore subjects in the State service. There is the further question of the appointment of Travancore subjects in Cochin in preference to Cochin subjects. That is also the instance cited recently of such a case of supercession—an unwarranted supercession.

Sir, I shall take these points one by one, because I cannot give as it were a complex reply to all these at once. With regard to the first question I have to say that if that is carried, it would mean the exclusion by statute or by rule or procedure the subjects of Travancore which I think even in point of policy is undesirable. (*Hear, hear*). As a matter of fact, so far. There is absolute reciprocity between Cochin and Travancore.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): Will the Government be pleased to inform this House how many Cochinites are there now in Travancore, aided or State service?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): Sir, I can answer this question by a counter question whether the Hon'ble Member can give the number of Travancore subjects in Cochin service.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): May I inform the House that for the last 15 years no Cochinite has been taken into service in Travancore.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon (Cranganur): Have you got any figures?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): I have not got any figures, but I know as a matter of fact.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): He has got his own figure.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I am not, Sir, on the question of statistics at present. I am only concerned with the question of principle. And I am sure that it is inexpedient and undesirable that subjects of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore should be made ineligible for service in the State.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): We did not want that.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): The Hon'ble Member himself has split the motion into two or three bits and I am trying to answer part by part.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): The mover of the cut motion and one member who supported him has made it quite clear that they don't want any such rules to be adopted. The latter has made it specifically clear that we do not want any hard and fast rule and we don't want the slogan "Cochin for Cochinites". That was made quite clear.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I am saying, not only can we have no hard and fast rule but there shall be perfect reciprocity between Cochin and Travancore as regards this.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): On a point of information, Sir. How many Cochin subjects are there in the Travancore service.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I cannot give you the figures, but an instance I know, that the Conservator of Forests of Travancore is a Cochinite. There may be others also.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): May I know the name of that Cochinite who is the Conservator in Travancore?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): He is Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkiteswaran.

There may be other officers also. There may be many professors in the Colleges. I am only mentioning this case because Travancore does not as a matter of principle observe any kind of exclusion of Cochin subjects.

Now, with regard to the second point which I think is the more essential portion of the cut motion, that the Travancore subjects should not be preferred when there are Cochin subjects. I naturally agree with the hon'ble member and what I wish to point out is that in the case of aided schools it is very doubtful whether it would be proper for this Department to interfere to this extent. Now, ordinarily, the appointment is reported to the authorities for approval. We simply looked to his qualification and also to his nativity, and if this objection is to be satisfied, I have to call for information whether there were other applicants from other

countries. This is quite unnecessary. If a complaint comes that a Travancore subject has been preferred, the other things being equal, there may be cause of action and I shall take steps to see that proper restrictions are placed in such cases. It may be understood that while other things being equal, subjects of our own State always get preferences so far as the Cochin Government and aided schools appointments are concerned.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): Is it that no teacher has complained about this preferential treatment? Have not the subordinate teachers whose claims have been overlooked, complained?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): Question No. 61, if I remember right, related to the respective qualifications of the Headmaster who has become the centre of so much attention and the other unfortunate people who it is alleged, have been overlooked. I did not specifically consider as to how many of them are Cochin subjects. The only question at issue was whether he had the necessary qualifications to be promoted as Headmaster over the heads of those people. The point was not a question of domicile at all. If the hon'ble members will simply consult yesterday's proceedings, they will see that there was no reference.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): May I know whether any of the subordinate teachers have appealed to the Director of Public Instruction whether their claims have been overlooked?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I want notice.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): Suppose they are going to complain.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): The question will be considered or re-considered on the merits. So that, there is no disagreement between the Government and the hon'ble members.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): So happy we are?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): If we can't find happiness even in harmony, it will be a difficult position. My submission to the Hon'ble House is that it is the policy of the Government always to prefer their own subjects whenever they are available, but not to exclude the subjects of our sister State of Travancore, because it is there considered and decided policy to leave as good neighbours and to adopt a policy of complete reciprocity in all such matters, because it is to our mutual advantage. I can honestly take it upon myself on behalf of the Government that cases of the kind referred to by the hon'ble members will not recur (*hear, hear*).

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu): I am very glad of the very helpful and promising suggestions given by the Hon'ble Member for Education and I would only request that he will be good enough to bear this in mind and to carry it out as and when occasions arise. I may also bring to the notice of the House one or two aspects of this question. This institution gets no grant from Kottayam, though it has got an affiliation with the C.M.S. institution at Kottayam. This institution gets no pie from Kottayam and the contribution of the teachers and the manager is actually subscribed by the teachers. It is so, you may take it from me. That is what is really happening. May be objectionable. It is a truth which I have to state here, which I may not be perfectly legal in doing outside the four corners of this House. I may also mention for your information that the Headmaster also happens to be the ex-officio manager of the institution, so that no complaint by the subordinates against either the Headmaster or his appointment in the form in which it ought to be placed before the Government could be made.

Therefore, in view of the assurance of sympathetic consideration promised by the Hon'ble Member for Education and making it absolutely and transparently clear that no animosity is entertained by this House against any Travancorean or any other subject of any other native State, I don't press the motion. We expect and we must give absolute reciprocity. That is why I in the very beginning submitted to this Hon'ble House that I will place stress on the latter portion. When we have equally good commodities available, why should we go for Kottayam commodities. With this I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn

The House rose for the day at 5 p.m.

N. S. RADHAKRISHNA SARMA

Secretary to the Council